The problem of Bangalore is more immediate. Accordingly, the Government has already decided to set up the second electronic switching system factory at Bangalore to produce 500,000 lines a year of exchange equipment against the present production of about 1.5 lakh lines a year of electro-mechanical switching system

Indian Telephone Industries has already been given instructions to proceed to set up the production of one lakh lines a year of electronic rural automatic exchanges (RAX's) of 128 port capacity of D-DOT design They have also been asked to set up production of another one lakh lines a year of 512 port electronic RAX's of C-DOT design as soon as the same has been cleared for production

The question of adopting any other technology for the balance 3 lakh lines would arise only if at the stage of increasing the production capacity difficulties are experienced with the product based on this technology.

The problem at Rae Bareli is not so urgent However, this is also being looked into The Government has also set up a high powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman SAIL to look into the problems of redeployment of staff likely to be rendered surplus due to phasing out of production of obsolete electro-mechanical exchange equipment, and other allied issues

As far as the alleged plans to import 2 lakh lines of exchange equipment per annum is concerned, the Department has no such plans and therefore there is no case for stopping the same.

Medical Research Project on the Bhopal Gas Victims

@1265. SHRI N E. BALARAM :
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has decided to terminate the medical research project on the Bhopal gas victim prematurely, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) Two projects viz. (i) Thyroid status in M I C affected and unaffected are as of Bhopal a long term assessment and (ii) Clinical and forensic toxicological studies in M I C affected and unaffected are as of Bhopal tailed consideration by experts since no positive findings were found.

Detention of Air India Airbus at Lagos

1266 SHRI J P GOYAL :
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL :
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA :
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL :
SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI ANAND SHARMA :
PROF C. LAKSHMANNA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air India Airbus was impounded at Lagos in Nigeria in August, 1987 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether said Air India plane has since been got released; and if so, on what conditions;

(c) the loss suffered by Air India as a result of impounding of the plane and whether Government of India have claimed any compensation from the Nigerian Government,

(d) whether the Government had since enquired into the circumstances in which the contraband heroin was seized from the plane,

(e) whether any person has been penalised for carrying contraband heroin in the plane and if so, the details thereof; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 933, transferred from the 16th November, 1987.

(f) the details of steps taken to avoid such incidents in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (f) One Air India Airbus A. 310 aircraft operating flight AI-203 on 25th August, 1987 on route Bombay-Nairobi-Lagos was detained at Lagos on the ground that the Customs officials of Nigeria claimed to have found hard drugs in some unclaimed baggages inside the aircraft. In this connection a high level Government delegation went to Lagos. After long negotiations a mutually acceptable solution was arrived at which envisaged release of the aircraft and the crew members and the withdrawal of cases on either side.

12.00 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report an Accounts (1986-87) of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited, New Delhi and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers :—

(i) Thirteenth Annual Report and Accounts of the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1986-87, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-5059/87 for (i) and (ii)]

I. Report and Accounts for the period from 30th June, 1984 to 31st March, 1985 of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta and related papers.

II. Notification of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Ports Wing) under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, on behalf of SHRI RAJESH PILOT I also beg to lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) First Annual Report and Accounts of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Calcutta, for the period from 30th June, 1984 to 31st March, 1985, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Company.

[Placed in Library. *See* No LT-5060/87 for (i) and (ii)]

II A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport (Ports Wing) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 :—

(i) G.S.R. No 677(E), dated the 27th July, 1987, approving the Cochin Port Employees (Temporary Service) Second Amendment Regulations, 1987.

(ii) G.S.R No. 807(E), dated the 21st September, 1987, approving the Cochin Port Employees (Grant of Advances for Building of Houses etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 1987.

[Placed in Library *See* No LT-4957/87 for (i) and (ii)]

I. Wealth Tax (Amendment) Rules, 1987.

II. Central Excise (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1987.